


Mixed Blessings:  
Interviews with Cross-Cultural and Interracial Couples at Ball State University

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Wes D. Gehring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Ball State University

Muncie, Indiana

February 1993

Expected date of graduation: May 1993

## Abstract

I have set out with the purpose of interviewing interracial and cross-cultural couples to find out the range of experiences at Ball State University. This is not scientific by any means (and I will not pretend it is), but it does coincide with increasing interracial relationships in the United States. Instead, I would like to call this an informal investigation of the degree of comfort experienced by a variety of students at a medium-sized Midwestern university and then, present it through my own experiences in a journal and a short video production. I have included the logs, participants' profiles, and script to show the evolution of the final result.

Although I have known many mixed couples personally, I have never probed with the intensity I have for this project. I interviewed six couples at the beginning of the summer to establish a rapport and later eight of those twelve people met to discuss their experiences at what is considered a typical American campus. They talk about their first meetings with in-laws and prospective in-laws to be, acceptance in society, the survival of their cultural characteristics in their children, and other topics.

Later, I interviewed a racially mixed couple to ask their opinions of some more detailed issues. They discuss if their relationship is different from any other, the special qualities they possess, and other points.

Little or no conclusion is made except hope lies with the young as far as tolerance and acceptance of all diverse people are concerned.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the participants who were extremely generous with their knowledge and experiences. None of them had to contact me and volunteer their help with my thesis. I am grateful. They nourished the seed of this idea to what I have at last completed.

Thank you to my advisor, Dr. Wes Gehring, who provided the support and flexibility I needed to understand what I really wanted out of this enduring project.

I am appreciative to the Honors College and all its supporters for giving me the arena to mold my education accordingly. Although, this is the end of my honors education, I know it is not the end of the learning process.

I am also indebted to the countless people who have given me support with the production aspects of my video project, especially Steven Schuler, William Thomas, and Chris Bowers.

Most importantly, I thank my parents, Ahmad bin. Mohammed Said and Pauline Jane Ahmad, and my sister, Emma Said, for helping to make me who I am and instilling the sort of pride in me which says two beats one and both are better than none. You are always with me.

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## Journal

For me writing is about synthesizing my thoughts. My flood of expression on paper is not so much a diary of everyday events, but a journal to keep me continuously developing my thesis as the year progresses. However, I worry if the maturation process seems too simple when committed to paper.

Tabloid television permeates our everyday existence whether we want it to or not. I have hit upon tabloid television because I watched a pretty unscrupulous amount during the summer of 1992 and discovered that the topic I have chosen to pursue for my thesis is very popular in one form or another, especially since the release of director Spike Lee's film, 'Jungle Fever', a story of interracial love. For example, children of interracial couples or women or men who date another race exclusively different from their own are focussed upon. I have come to realize that interracial dating and intercultural dating for that matter too, are treated as something not normal. It is according to some the last taboo. I hope that in my treatment of this subject I do not make it more of the same. While difficult to pursue because I want it to be honest, I now hope I have the skills to convey this subject as more of a collage than an analysis.

This project is about the people I interview and it is indirectly about me. I would like it to essentially be about the level of comfort experienced by interracial and/or cross-cultural couples and their personal experiences at a medium-sized Midwestern university. I say that because to be closely interested in a subject it has to come from somewhere inside of yourself. I am Eurasian; my Dad was Malaysian of Malay descent and my Mum was British of mostly English descent. Now, you know that I am the daughter of both an interracial and intercultural relationship. Therefore, let me add this is not a purification process, nor is it a purging process, but it is very personal.

Generally speaking, in society one is perceived as the same race as the minority parent. I believe this has helped me to achieve a sort of double consciousness as I live a life intertwined with elements of both East and West.

Undoubtedly, as you may have guessed I have my opinions already. I do feel balanced, in fact, sometimes too much, but one of my greatest qualms is the obligatory nature to fill in the box on a form to describe one's race. For me, "other"

fits well. It makes me feel unique and makes me wonder who else fills this special category. So, perhaps I should state my opinions up front. I adore genuine understanding of a particular culture. And remember you can never know too much about the way other people live. In fact, a person in a loving relationship will never learn more than their partner regardless of whether their races are the same or different.

Growing out of a need to know other people's experiences, I pursued the idea of interracial and intercultural relationships as my honor's thesis. What I am about to embark on is not an objective, news sort of documentary, but more a compilation of perspectives by a subjective producer and director. In my opinion, I need know other people's perspectives about so-called mixed dating and practice the desire of research in its most informal sense. I had already read some of what was available in academic and popular journals and in literary form.

Before the summer began, I chose to read two books. The books served to get a grasp of general sentiments felt by individuals in interracial and intercultural relationships. The first was Love in Black and White: The Triumph of Love over Taboo. The romance from the initial attraction to dating to marriage is a personal story of conquering what is considered too different and the joy of overcoming the odds pressed upon such couples by society. The couple, a black South African and a white American, co-wrote their experiences from the beginning with astounding stories and heartwarming ones, too, to illustrate their struggle for respect from the greater majority of the white dominated United States of America as the husband grew increasingly visible in the public's eye.

The other book, Different Worlds: Interracial & Cross-cultural Dating has a different feeling. It is more of an interpretative analysis by a counselor of interviews and case studies from her counseling practice. Because the book focuses on teenagers in such relationships, it lacks an air of permanency (the descriptions came to resemble police reports) while at the same time providing useful examples of intercultural misunderstandings.

By reading both of these books, I helped myself to gain a focus. I realized my approach; that is, I wanted it to unravel for me and try and convey the range of perspectives for viewers of my final video. The underlying theme is more about the breadth of experience one has. In other words, no so-called mixed relationship is

the same. Both helped me to solidify my views immensely.

When I placed an ad in the Daily News seeking interracial or cross-cultural couples, I was inviting positive feedback. However, I did not realize this until later. Just the use of the word “couple” segregated those who would prefer not to comment or were tainted by bad experiences of people who are racially and culturally different from themselves. In retrospect, I would have done this differently, but by no means do I regret the manner my interviewees revealed themselves.

Talking to people over the phone enabled me to realize the breadth of people here in Muncie. Their candor surprised me. Why they should talk to me was important to them. It became obvious that the establishment of trust was truly crucial. I liked the fact that people wanted to know about me. It mattered to me the participants asked what direction I was coming from. It seemed they also needed to know what sort of relationship I am in and what problems I may or may not experience because of my predominantly Asian looks and comparably pale boyfriend. At the same time I was allowed to screen them for use at a later date and prepare questions if I decided to do so.

As I said previously, the range of types of people who responded was wide, I cannot say thousands or even hundreds contacted me, but over that two weeks the classified advertisement was published, I waited to hear what personal stories I was provided. I say provided and not given because it really was a privilege to talk openly about what were, essentially, relationships not normally for public ears. Ironically, sometimes both halves of a couple were interested by the ad and called me individually. Eventually seven different couples rang me to enquire about the project for my thesis.

They were culturally divergent: Lebanese, Cuban, Afghani, Trinidadian, Filipino and American, and their races varied accordingly. The telephone conversation was different compared to the meetings which lasted an hour for the most part. Some invited me to their home and others to their workplace or neutral ground like a restaurant. For me it was an effort to gain their confidence to enable them to talk openly with the others when I asked them to participate in the group discussion. On the other hand, I think they likened the meetings to just a friendly chat. I opted to include everyone I possibly could because (1) I did not receive as



many replies as I truly hoped and (2) my interest was changing to a more varied and diverse perspective.

Deciding on a mutual day for all of us over the summer was also something I did not account for. But with a lot of planning, this became my high point for the entire thesis. Just a chat was what it was to me on the surface. I hoped the open structure for the participants would enable them to not think of what I expected, but talk about what they wanted.

It was set-up with the idea it should take its own course with no moderator steering it in one direction or another. Technically it was also burdensome. I chose to video outside for a more relaxed air, but construction workers were sand blasting a building near the spot we had to video, so I delayed our initial meeting. When I planned for the inclusion of everyone for the second meeting, I did not consider equipment needs to the fullest extent. As tiresome as it seemed, it was vital to address. In addition, I did not realize that because of the configuration I wanted, I could not do it all by myself. Near the time of the taping was to begin, I raced around the campus and the surrounding area looking for senior production assistants. One friend had time to help me, but others were already committed. Chris, who was to monitor sound levels and run the wide shot of the whole group, was invaluable. And it was only by chance that my third camera person, Bill, was in the area when we were setting up that I was able to ask for his help. Nervous with preparation anxiety, they were great and helped to iron out any possible problems and thus, I was at last relaxed enough to enjoy the discussion.

Originally, I intended for pizza to be ready and waiting before hand so people could familiarize themselves with each other and what was to transpire. I planned for pizza, but not a certain delivery driver's misinterpretation of my directions. As a person who likes plans to turn out as intended, I saw the smooth shoot I hoped to attain slowly disappear.

Eventually, when the meeting started, the conversation had a sort of feeling I was trying hard to avoid. Their exchange of experiences gained a certain friendliness as acquaintances with similar experiences manage over time. The level of trust it was good and a lot was said for me to be able to look over for editing. I controlled the outside influences, but they lead the discussion themselves. As far as group dynamics were concerned, Charity seemed to lead and others were more quiet

like Niki and Jennifer which sometimes made for a less balanced flavor, but it still turned out moderately well.

Although different from what I planned, I was still pleased with the outcome. Never did I interrupt with my own questions, instead I preferred to let the discussion wonder - more like an exchange of experiences between people. Not all the couples could be equally represented with each person, but presumably all the stories recounted were balanced from the respective points of view of both halves of the couple. I also lost all contact with another couple for some reason.

Thereafter, I chose to interview Ed and Kim to gain a greater understanding of their experiences in more detail. Both are American, but they both seemed thoughtful and articulate and able to take the time to really talk with me about what I wished to explore from their perspectives of an interracial couple. I became a participating observer and I stayed as long as it took to capture their interaction in a semi-structured interview process and to allow them to move into what they wished to say without any heavy constraints.

All the interviews whether as couples or the whole group, informal or formal, were time consuming. I tried my hardest to be encouraging and positive, but at the same time I think a bias may have arisen because of my own background. However, there was a high response rate because it is difficult for people to refuse answering. I would like to think some intimacy was instilled. Oftentimes, they brought up aspects I did not think of originally.

For a communications major, it seemed rather difficult to coordinate my schedule with others and truly emphasize the need for people to reciprocate that need for communication. One fellow who was unable to be at the informal outdoor session, was awfully difficult to contact, but I knew I wanted to talk to him for his experiences and insights. It mattered, too, that he and his girlfriend were recently engaged. It seems he has left Muncie without leaving an address, so I could not follow-up with some more questions. This is the sort of occurrence which maddens me, but at the same time, it makes me realize that ideally I should work like all these people will leave town yesterday.

Logging tapes has been the biggest hump to get over. It is both long and tedious, but I want to know on paper what I have recorded and what it later becomes as a synopsis of what I was able to find out. However, for every minute's worth of

sound, it took five minutes to record on paper. Although the process saps your strength, it made the script writing and editing processes a lot less cumbersome.

I endeavored to interview a full-range of people for varied experiences. However this lead to a great deal of problems coordinating the array of schedules. So many people tried to encourage me to use the studio for the larger interview because I could control factors like lighting and audio quality especially. Instead, I preferred the natural outdoor backdrop of the quad at the northern part of the Ball State University campus. I must admit now this was not ideal because of the wires for the microphones did not make things look so natural either and now I have the added difficulty of editing wide shots with the audio and then editing the medium close ups on top of it for added visual depth of character.

I crossed the logging hump I endeavored to achieve last summer and now script preparation awaits. I tried not to generalize in my script while at the same time drawing some fair and logical conclusions about their similarities and differences with regard to their level of comfort experienced at Ball State University. It has not been measured in the formal sense except I started with an idea and 'measured' it by interviewing what I thought was a good range of people. No specific procedure was followed except the level of questioning grew more intense as I moved through the interviewing process. I could only compare their experience to the case histories I read last summer.

The video project is finished. (To call it a documentary would burden its purpose.) I am not sure if it is decidedly positive, but I do not want to over simplify the points of concern associated with an interracial or cross-cultural relationship.

My favorite parts of this project have been researching and writing for the script. I find this the most rewarding because my mind is being enriched. As useful as the editing skills may be to me eventually, the process became monotonous. Undoubtedly, my production knowledge has improved greatly, but it is still not what I would like it to be. As for my thesis, it has not only taught me the obvious, but allowed me to grow spiritually as I learn about myself in terms of who I am and what I can do.

Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #1  
Tel. No. 289 - 1802

### **Kent & Beth Winterowd**

**Length dated/married:** Married for 3 years, dated for 3 years and were engaged one year.

**Ethnic origin:** He is American of German descent and she is Lebanese with American residency.

**City of origin:** He is from Colorado. She is from Beirut, Lebanon.

**Met:** At Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana.

**Religion:** Both are Church of God.

**Studies:** He finished his Masters of Psychological Science. She has her B.A. in Theater and currently works full-time.

**Problems:** Holding hands in public when they first started dating.

Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #2  
Tel. No. 289 - 9745

## **Henry Stukenborg & Charity Rodriguez**

- Length dating/married:** Dated 3 years and were engaged last summer.
- Ethnic Origin:** He is American of German origin. She is Black Hispanic and her family originally came from Cuba 22 years ago.
- City of Origin:** He comes from Plymouth, IN, a town of about 12,000 people and she is from Gary, IN, a large city.
- Met:** On the Speech Team at Ball State University.
- Religion:** Both are Catholic.
- Studies:** He is a senior majoring in advertising and minoring in English. She recently graduated with a major in telecommunications.
- Problems:** People staring at them in public.
- Future:** Both see themselves in a diversely populated town.

Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #3  
Tel. No. 284 - 5755

## **Ken Jamora & Stephanie Tyler**

**Length dated/married:** Dating 1 1/2 years.

**Ethnic origin:** He is first generation Phillipino-American. She is American of Italian descent.

**City of Origin:** They are both from suburbs outside of Louisville, KY.

**Met:** Through their brother and sister who are dating.

**Religion:** He is Catholic. She is Presbyterian.

**Studies:** He is studying graphic design. She is studying sociology.

**Problems:** His family still find it difficult to realize he dates an American woman.

**Future:** To live in a city with an open mentality like San Francisco.

Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #4  
Tel. No. 289 - 3045

## **Stanley J. & Jennifer Mahabir Zehr**

- Length dated/married:** Dated since October 1988 and married in 1990.
- Ethnic origin:** He is American of German origin. She is Trinidadian of Indian descent.
- City of Origin:** He is grew up on a small farm outside of Manson, Iowa. She grew up in a small village called Barrackpore, Trinidad.
- Met:** In Goshen, IN at a ministry school.
- Religion:** He is Mennonite originally and she is from the Independent Pentecostal Church
- Studies:** He is studying T.E.S.O.L. and linguistics. She is in the ministry and does housekeeping part-time.
- Problems:** When they visited in Iowa, there was some staring. His sister was concerned about where or how they would "fit in".
- Future:** They would like to be missionaries in Japan.

Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #5  
Tel. No. 286 - 8735

**Mir Mhd. Timur "Tim" Siddiq & Danielle S. Mann**

- Length dated/married:** Dating for 3 years.
- Ethnic origin:** He is part Afghani and part American. She is American of German-Dutch origin.
- City of Origin:** He is from Kabul, Afghanistan and Nashville, IN and she is from Cincinnati, OH, Brookville, IN and Nashville, IN.
- Met:** They knew each other from high school in Nashville, but began dating at B.S.U.
- Religion:** His parents are Muslim and Methodist, but he is agnostic. She is Methodist.
- Studies:** He is in Graphics Management. She is in English Education.
- Problems:** For her, understanding the Afghani customs and language, especially the treatment of women.
- Future:** Living in Indianapolis together.



Honor's Theses  
Participants' Profile #6  
Tel. No. 747 - 0289/741 - 9467

### **Ed Beathe & Kim Rowen**

- Married/Dating:** Dating 1 year.
- Ethnic Origin:** He is African-American. She is American of Irish-German descent.
- City of Origin:** He is from Elkhart, IN. She is from Indianapolis, IN.
- Met:** In halls where he was an R.A. and she worked at the desk.
- Religion:** He is Baptist and she is Catholic.
- Studies:** He will complete his General Studies degree at the end of the summer and prepare to enroll for a Masters in Sports Management. She is majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education.
- Problems:** Have centered mostly around her parent's non-acceptance of Ed.
- Future:** Live and work in the same area. Probably wherever he gets a job.

## Log of Group Interview

.00 Kent: Kent Winterowd and I'm from Colorado originally.

.05 Beth: I'm his wife, Beth Winterowd and I was born in Beirut, Lebanon.

.10 Charity: I'm Charity Rodriguez and I'm Cuban American.

.16 Jennifer: I'm Jennifer Zehr and I'm from Trinidad.

.19 Stan: I'm Stan Zehr, Jennifer's husband and I'm an American.

.26 Danielle: I'm Danielle Mann. I am a Methodist from Brookville, Indiana and my boyfriend, Tim, he's Afghani. He's from Kabul, Afghanistan.

.36 Nicole My name is Nicole \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm Greek American.

.42 Kim My name is Kim Rowen and I'm from Indianapolis and my boyfriend, Ed, is from Elkhart.

1.06 Kent: Umh, right now I'm working on my master and I'm working on my theses right now trying finish all that up.

Stan: In what?

1.07 Kent: Psychological science and I'm hoping to go to Rutgers this fall to start on my Ph.D. work and Beth is basically working to pay the bills right now.

1.31 Beth: I'm supporting him now. I have a Bachelors in theater, speech and drama. I work in the drama department at Ball State. I'm hoping that one day I will finish my masters and Ph.D. too, but after he finishes his so he can start paying for bills.

1.50 Charity: I recently graduated in telecommunications. I ... what else? My boyfriend, he's American of German descent, umh from Plymouth, IN. He is in advertising. We recently got engaged. We've been dating for 3 years and you know ...

2.20 Jen.: I'm a homemaker, work part-time housekeeping, and ... What else do I do?

- That's a lot.

- How'd you two meet?

We met through a discipleship school, do you want me to explain?

2.37 Stan: Yeah, we met in Goshen IN in northern Indiana. Even though she's from Trinidad, we met in a Midwestern spot. Umh, but yeah we were ... the church we were part of started up as a school, there for a purpose of training people in ministry and personal growth. And just because of the connection through people she ended up coming from New York where she was staying at the time and that's where we met. And so we've been married for a little over two years. Right? Three months.

- Two years, three months.

And, umh, we've moved down here after we got married. I'm in graduate school for TESOL and linguistics. So, I teach English as a second language.

3.35 Dan.: I worked in the graduate office. ...

3.47 Stan: Well, I sleep in the morning, so maybe that's it.

3.51 Beth: My brother-in-law teaches English as a ... to foreigners.

- Really.

So, right now, he's teaching in Oman.

- So, what's his name.

Gerald Salute, he's British.

4.06 Stan: So, was he trained in Britain?

4.07 Beth     Yeah, he got his master's in England. And uh, they lived in Kuwait for awhile and she taught English to women only. And he taught to men.

4.23 Jen.:     So, how did you two meet?

4.25 Beth:     We met at Anderson University - believe it or not?! Anderson, Indiana, yup.

-     Funny thing is I lived in Saudi Arabia for two years. Right over there pretty close to Lebanon. Never met there, but we met here. We met at Anderson, IN of all places. I met this Lebanese girl.

4.45 Charity: That's really something. I mean the connection there.

4.48     It's a small world after all.

4.51     What language do Lebanese speak?

4.53     They read and write classical Arabic, but speak Lebanese which is a dialect of the classical Arabic. So, what you read and write is different from what you spoke.

5.04 Dan.:     Oh, because my boyfriend speaks Pharisee. Or what you call Persian.

5.07 Beth:     Persian, that's totally different.

5.10 Dan.:     But, they, they, I don't know. What language would they write there? Is that Arabic too?

5.16 Beth:     They use the Arabic letters, but I would not, I can read it, but it would make no sense to me. OK? Like if I go to Egypt, I can understand them because they read and write Arabic like I do, but they speak a dialect of it which is a beautiful language. ... Almost sing their words.

5.37 Stan:     Pharisee is spoken in Iran and Iraq, but it's different dialects like what

you experienced in Egypt.

5.43 Beth: I think Saudi Arabians are the closest people who speak what they write and read. They're the closest to the classical Arabic.

5.52 Charity: How long have you been here?

5.56 Beth: I've been in the states for seven years. I came to visit my brother from Lebanon and the situation as you ... in Lebanon, there's war and the airport closed and I saw my high school on CNN in flames. So, I called my dad and he said, "You better finish high school since you're there."

6.22 Beth: So, I had to take one semester of high school and I had to take in the summer a government class of course. You have to take a government class to graduate, so of course, I took that. And I graduated.

6.35 But you were already fluent in English and everything?

6.38 Beth: Yeah, Middle Eastern people, when they start you in school, they start you with two languages. Right from when you were a baby. It was the hardest thing for me because I had a British teacher. The hardest thing when I came here was the slang, I had no idea. I thought it was a totally different language. I had no idea.

7.00 Dan.: That's happened to Tim 'cause his teacher was British. They had a British-American school. ... The English is different between American and British.

7.07 Beth: Oh, yes. It's very different, very different. So, I had to learn that all over again. Yeah, I think t.v. was my best teacher.

7.26 Cha.: And, how long have you been dating?

7.28 Jen.: I've been here for six years.

7.32 Cha.: What church denomination are you?

7.35 Jen.: Denomination. Mennonite.

7.40 Cha.: Do you have any kids?

7.41 Jen.: No, no yet, ... not yet.

7.46 Cha.: Have you had problems here because of your skin tone? Problems from neighbors or anything?

7.53 Jen.: Umh, not really in the neighbors. Once in awhile, I run into that. Verbally, no I can't tell. I can tell when that's happening. Umh, it hasn't really been that bad.

8.10 Kim: How about your families? Do they have any problem ... at all ... Are they pretty accepting?

8.17 Stan: Which one of your families?

8.19 Kim: Either one of you.

8.22 Stan: Well, when we were getting to know each other pretty well, that was kind of one of the major questions that I had to sort through. What, how will my family respond to our relationship because my family is really close, fairly, fairly traditional in a lot of ways. Some at least one of my bothers had gotten to know her before we started dating and I was pleasantly surprised that they were for the most part really accepting of her and even were from the beginning. I have one sister who lives all the way out on the west coast and umh ... she and her husband really weren't too sure and of course they really hadn't met Jennifer, so, they didn't really get to know her. But I think the rest of the family ... She worked herself into their hearts. She has a way of doing that.

9.22 What about your parents?

9.24 Jen.: Umh, it was a , it was a, they were really accepting when he went there. Even before they met him, they talked to him on the phone.

9.41 In Trinidad? Have you been there?

9.42 Stan: Yeah, we went there the summer after we were married. So, it was a really good time with her family. Probably, the most, I don't know, maybe the most ... , one of the most uncomfortable was when we went to the market. I really stood out there. And of course, they knew, I was white and American and so they thought I had a lot of money.

10.16 Jen.: He almost stepped on this woman's peppers and she said, "He's a white man, so he can afford to pay for all of them. He's got lots of money." Well, you'd find the lower class the people, you'll reach them there. But in our neighborhood they were really nice to him.

10.45 Stan: I found out too the cross-cultural adjustment ... I think is a lot ... was a lot easier for me in going to Trinidad because I'm married to her. She helped me out a lot in understanding things. Having a place or a group of people to fit in right away, her family helped out. I think how that experience was a lot different from when I visited Honduras just as a single student and there you knew it was just a whole lot more awkward fitting in socially. But of course, we haven't been in Trinidad together for a long period of time, but it seemed while we were there it seemed pretty natural because I was already part of the family.

11.32 Beth: That's nice.

11.34 Stan: Is that experience pretty natural for you?

11.36 Kent: Well, I haven't been able to go to Lebanon because ...

11.38 Beth: I will not take him right now.

11.40 Kent: I probably wouldn't make it too far unless, I made it home in the trunk or something. I got to meet her parents the same day I asked her to marry me. And, uh, that was interesting. The same day I met them I'm like saying, "Can I marry your daughter?" And uh, she'd said, they're really traditional, type people, you know, really old-fashioned. So, I thought I'd ask for her hand in marriage ... very traditional kind of thing. And I asked, I don't remember exactly what I said, but I asked for his permission to marry his daughter - something like that. And his response totally blew me away, well, she's old enough ... ask her.

12.31 Where was that?

12.32 Kent: That was in Indiana at her brother's place. He used to live here in Indiana.

12.41 Stan: Do your parents come to the U.S. very often?

12.43 Beth: Yeah, they do because they're residents. They should be here in about two weeks.

12.56 Cha.: That's really funny ... what you say about the tradition because my boyfriend just recently asked me you know ... got engaged. He has to go to my parents and ask them now which is ... and I consider myself a pretty nineties girl. Well, okay, we now have to go back in time and you have to go ask my parents. So, we're in the process of setting up that time with my parents. And you know, I mean I have no ring like the official ring. I don't have on my hand because I'm like "no, I can't go home, hey look at this! They'd be like, umh-huh. Well, you know. You didn't come to us first.

13.39 Have they met him?

13.42 Cha.: They've met him and they just think he's the most wonderful thing in



the world, thing in the world. He comes home. My mother is a homemaker or a housewife. She just loves people and company. All different religions, backgrounds, races. so, when he came over she's like big banquet style. I like come over, "There's some hamburgers in the fridge, fix yourself whatever you want." And he comes over and she's like, "You'll learn about our culture and everything." She really ... and she talks to him in Spanish I mean like... My first language is Spanish. And she'll talk to him in Spanish.

14.26 Does he understand?

14.28 Cha.: No, he doesn't. At first, he was just like, "Si, si, si."

14.32 Beth: Whatever she says?

14.35 Cha.: Yeah, he'll go, "What is she saying to me?" Well, like da, da, da. But now, he's been around me enough and my family that he can keep up with what is going on in the conversation, but he can't respond. So, the other day he was talking to my mother, (his voice) "Well, I wanted to talk to your husband." She's rattling off in Spanish and he is like, "Yeah, si Senora. Okay!" He got off and said I couldn't understand exactly what she was saying, but she pretty much got the gist of what I was telling her. You know and such, so ...

15.12 Beth: Do you speak her language?

15.14 Jen.: Well, I speak English.

15.16 Beth: Oh! But you have an accent. A little bit maybe, no ... never mind!

15.25 Jen.: No, you're right. Umh ... we speak British-English and it's also Caribbean - British-English.

15.32 Beth: Umh, explain that.

15.34 Jen.: Uh, because it's not totally British. And I was thinking about that and I think it's because of uh, great-grandparents, my great-grandparents were from Indian and they spoke Hindi, I suppose. Yeah, and so then my grandparents gradually came out of it, then to my parents. So, they'll not speak perfect British English because of their heritage.

16.08 Beth: Hmh ..., that's very interesting.

16.11 Jen.: So, now I don't really know what I speak. Maybe American-British-English.

16.16 Beth: I have a question: what background is your boyfriend?

16.20 Kim: He's just African-American.

16.24 Beth: Is he a Ball State student?

16.26 Kim: Uh-huh. He graduates in July. He starts graduate school in the fall. He has a G.A. in the track and field program. Here, he ran in the track and field program for three years and he's gonna get his degree in sports management or coach college track or something along those lines. Something with track.

16.15 Cha.: How long have you been dating?

16.53 Kim: A year and like, two months.

16.57 Beth: How'd you guys meet?

16.58 Kim: He was an R.A. in my hall and I worked at the desk.

17.02 Cha.: What's his name?

17.03 Kim: Ed Beathea.

17.04 Cha.: Oh! I know Ed! Because I was an R.A. also. Everyone knew Ed. Hi Ed! Everywhere we'd go! I was in Crosley Hall.

17.13 Kim: Everywhere we go, everyone knows Ed. He knows everyone I think.

17.22 Stan: So, has he met your family.

17.24 Kim: No, they know we are dating, but they are not accepting of it. So, or they're act like they're accepting of it. If they're not we don't know about it. Do, umh and my parents aren't accepting of it. So, they don't really want to have to deal with it 'til like we get engaged or something like that.

17.47 Beth: Are you planning to?

17.49 Kim: Eventually, we would like to get married eventually, but that for me ... that's at least three or four years down the road. So, we think we're the ones for each other and so hopefully, eventually it'll work out.

18.03 Was it difficult? Umh, since you know your parents are going to be opposed.

18.08 Kim: Yeah, it was hard. It is hard. It's hard to deal with because I'm really, I am close to my family. It's not like we're not close and when I go home and spend time with them ... I want Ed to experience those things too and he can't. It gets hard to deal with that, but we're trying to deal with it better and not like because I caught myself like trying ... to pull back from my family instead of just sort of dealing with it and taking it for what it was right now and so I'm like trying to like learn how sort of just be more laid back and more relaxed about it and not so uptight about because that just makes them more uptight.

18.50 Do your parents ever try to talk to you about it then or is it kind of a ...

18.54 Kim: My dad does not talk about it at all. Never, I mean, so , but my mom actually just past this week, we had a long talk about it. She's very honest and we're

very honest with each other about it. As she talks to me about it. We've gotten to the point where it doesn't hurt my feeling anymore; its just being honest you know, I mean they know that I love him and I want to be with him and everything, but I know they don't want me to be with him. I think we've just agreed to disagree and you know we keep saying I hope you're going to do the right thing. Well, I keep ... my parents are going to do the right thing and neither of us is probably going to get what we want. It's hard, but Ed's very understanding and it makes us stronger people, I think at least tries to. And it's nice that his family is very accepting of it because it's at least nice to have one side of the family you can go and rely on.

19.54 Cha.: Did you have any ... ? Umh, well, like what attracted you to him?

20.00 Kim: His personality, totally, I mean ... he just has the best personality of any person. I wasn't attracted to him physically at all when we first met ... I was like ... uh ... whatever, he just made me laugh ... and he just, he's just ...

20.13 Dan.: I remember that because when you first started dating you were like no! ...

20.18 Kim: I know I was like ... we just ... I mean ... his personality ... He's a very wise person like I don't know. He just has an answer for every problem. It seems like a solution you know. He's just very understanding and very laid back, very, very, very laid back.

20.38 Beth: Are you a hyper person?

20.40 Kim: Yes.

20.42 Beth: That's very interesting because I am extremely hyper and he's very laid back. That's complimenting each other.

20.49 Kim: Yeah, I'm pretty hyper and he keeps me calm, but sometimes I get him like to sometimes you're like you have to show him a little emotion. So, but umh,

sort of everything about him. He's just really good, he's just a good, he's just a good person. Everyone who's met him likes him. I've never met anyone who doesn't. Well, other, my parents haven't even met him. That doesn't really count. You know - everyone. They're always like, "Ed is just so wonderful dadadada." You know, and just everything really.

21.28 Cha.: I take it then, you haven't dated outside of your race before? ...

21.30 Kim: Yeah, I have.

21.32 Kim: Yes, but, umh, that's what made it hard the second time because after my last boyfriend which was a sort of experimentation or whatever, rebellious kind of thing, you're just curious after that I was like I will never ever do that again and it was like a year and a half later or something like that and Ed and I met and I was like, "No, I am not, I can't date you, I'm not going to do it, no way, I'm not going to do this again." Because the first time my parents met my boyfriend and everything like that and they tried to deal with it and then, it got to be too much.

22.04 Cha.: What was his background?

22.05 Kim: He was African-American also and we went to high school together. We went to the same high school and we had the same religious background and everything like that, but just different like racial. And umh, then I just met Ed and for 3 months I denied it and then finally I was just like well, Nicole here helped me out and I finally just decided that you know it doesn't matter whether he's black, white, red, purple or whatever, you know? And we just got together.

22.37 Nicole: He isn't Catholic is he?

22.38 Kim: So, we're different religions ...

22.43 Cha.: Is that a problem?

22.45 Kim: No, because I'm not super strong in like being Catholic. We believe in God. I don't really practice Catholicism, we both believe in God and you know believe in that, but we don't have like strong feelings towards one certain religion where we don't budge either way. That's not really a problem. We actually don't have a problem with our racial differences. I mean everyone else seems to, but not us, you know. But actually we haven't had any real problems other than my family. I mean looks every now and then, but you know that goes along with anything that is different. You know whether your hair is up to here or you're with someone of another race.

23.28 Kim: Have you had problems with his family?

23.30 Cha.: Umh, now well, umh, when we first started going out or whatever, he hadn't told his parents about me until like the day he said I want you to go, you know, I want to meet your family, we're going to go this weekend. Well, I've got to call my parents, you know, just before to let them know we're leaving and he calls them and he phone he goes oh by the way, I have to tell you, you know she's black. And then he goes, and to add a twist though she speaks Spanish, she's Cuban-American. And they were like, so, when I got home, I knew they had just swallowed this. His father was like ... "hello" ... And they give me a big hug and everything. His mom is like (gasp) I mean she was literally (gasp) "hi". And so, all this time we've been together and everything, his dad always just hugged me and "how ya doing." He just went with the gusto. And he was like yeah, you know whatever. But just recently his mother hugged me. I mean all the times I've met his mom, she's always been, "Hello Charity. How are you." Dadadada. She's really nice, but just like two weeks ago and she gets out of the car and gives me a big old hug. Oh wow! And I turn around and say, "Your mom hugged me, she hugged me!" So, we were really surprised about that, but they are always open-minded about things. Takes his mother awhile to get with the gusto. But she always asks questions and like well you know. She's been the hesitant one. Well, okay, we'll see where this goes.

25.17 Kim: Do they know you're engaged?

25.19 Cha.: Yeah! They found out two weeks ago. They came down, they asked, "Well, what are your plans." And he just came out at the table and said, "Well, mom, you know, I think we are going to get engaged. Well we are going to get engaged and get married." that was a surprise to me. I didn't know he was going to tell them. We had talked about it, but what he talks about with them are two different things. So, I was like, you know. really, oh you didn't prepare me for this. Wait a second. And so his mom was sort of like I sort of expected that. Okay, what else?? Oh, they're pretty laid back with this whole situation. So, they've been pretty okay about the whole thing ... No big deal.

26.03 Beth: How long have you been dating?

26.04 Cha.: Three years it's been. And my parents, they, there are six kids in my family and with my parents being from Cuba, they've lived this really kind of isolated life just you know at their house and their traditional Cuban values and they send us off to school and come back home and that's it kind of thing. I have two older brothers and a sister and my sister has like traveled all over the world and had boyfriends from all over, every single country possible. So, they're like you ... okay, you know. They had no idea what their kids were going to get involved with. Were they going to get involved with Latino guys which is a possibility up in Gary, Indiana which is where they're living at now or are they going to get involved with white guys or a black guy. They were like, I don't know ... Umh, my brothers are the same the same. They've dated a lot of girls outside of their race and everything. And my brother just recently, no about two years ago got married to a ... one brother married a Mexican woman, one brother married to an African-American woman, my sister is involved with a guy from Spain ...

27.17 Beth: It's like my family. So they couldn't say anything.

27.21 Cha.: Yeah, they can't say you're not gonna ...

27.24 Beth: That's right, my sister is married to a British, my brother is married to a

Lebanese, and my other brother is married to an American. So they had no ... They can't say, you can't marry this ... they couldn't stop my siblings.

27.38 Jen.: How did you family respond to this, to you?

27.42 Kent: It was no problem for my family whatsoever. I mean she doesn't look ... She looks American first of all. And we'd lived in the Middle East for a couple of years and had done a lot of traveling. They really didn't have any problems at all. My mom is a little wary she may take me back to Lebanon. But,uh, if they didn't have any problems what so ever.

28.16 Beth: We hit it off pretty fast like that.

28.19 Stan: I surprised my parents when I took her home the first time because they told me ... Let's see it was some ...

Beth: Thanksgiving

Was it? Thanksgiving break and they said bring a friend home for break and so I took Beth with me.

28.34 Beth: They meant a guy. So, here I am.

28.41 Ken: I brought my girlfriend.

28.45 Beth: That was a shock. They were like we mean a boy from the dorm. You know a friend.

28.55 Cha.: Now, your boyfriend's from Afghanistan or he's Afghanistan-American and how'd you guys meet?

29.04 Dan.: His parents, his mom lives in Nashville and we went to high school together there.

Nashville, Tennessee?

Indiana and then we came together.



29.18 Cha.: How did his family and your family ...?

29.19 Dan.: My family is fine. My family is like your family with him. We pull up in the car and he is like in front of the t.v., sandwich in one hand and a drink in the other. and I'm unloading the car. And then his family is different. The family, in fact, I visited just two weeks ago in Washington, D.C.. They're very traditional, they speak no English unless I ask them to translate and it's really hard. And Tim is bilingual and he has been since he was born. Like you he went to two schools. He translated for me a little bit and it is really hard to get along with that. They treat women differently. Like the Afghan girls. They can't meet their fiancé's parents until they're officially engaged and then they're allowed to meet the other family. Umh, they're really strange, they're not really arranged marriages, they have to be approved first. And then, to me it's different because I'm American and even though some of his cousins were born here, they still don't call themselves American. They're Afghans they say. And umh, they live in Alexandria, VA, his family does, his uncle, and that little area's interesting because they're a lot of Afghans who live there. Same as his relatives in California. They all seem to get together and it's real interesting. They're real accepting of me and my family because I was surprised if they would because his dad has a problem with me, but the rest of his family is fine. I was scared to go, but it was fine once we got there.

30.51 Kim: Do they treat you like a woman, as they're equal or do they speak more, like do the men in the family speak more like down to you or as you're not their equal?

31.00 Dan.: They ... different because when Tim wants something, they don't question me as much as they would question me. But I'm also young, I'm a kid to them. But like they're wives and stuff, his aunt and uncle didn't very much. They don't sleep in the same room together, there's a lot of mis-communication because she's come over here because she's found she can take a bus anywhere she wants to go. She doesn't have to do anything she doesn't want to do. And he's not too hip on that. So, and they're all very educated. They've all been to college and they've all

got their doctorates - all of his aunts and uncles have their doctorates or their Ph.D.s or they're medical doctors of some sort. All of them are very educated, even the women are, which is I think is really neat. But they're different classes. Women aren't valued for their opinions very much. They're like (hand - "shaky").

31.52 Beth: You can find this in all the Asian countries.

31.55 Dan.: You can find it here too, but seems more ...

31.59 Beth: They're getting there. This new generation is really rebellious. Really.

32.07 Ken: Not, in Saudi, for example.

32.08 Beth: Saudi is, they're not, they can't breathe because of their religion. Moslem is just, they just cannot breathe, but the other countries maybe they're allowed to breathe a little bit, they're being very rebellious.

32.24 Dan.: And it's getting better as far as they can come over here a lot easier to go to school.

32.27 Beth: That's right and their women are getting educated for the first time in many, many years.

32.34 Dan.: Because Tim's mom and dad met at I.U. That's how they met. He came over here, he got his Master's degree in London somewhere and then came to get his Ph.D. degree at IU and that's how they met. And the ability of travel makes it a lot easier too for exposure.

32.50 Cha.: So are both of his parents from Afghanistan?

32.52 Dan.: His mom is from Indianapolis.

Is she Afghanistan?

No, she has red hair and green eyes. She's American origin. And then his dad is

full Afghan. And if you saw Tim, though, you'd think he was a regular schmuck. I mean you'd never know. But his older brother is really dark and has dark hair. And Tim sort of his skin is not real dark and his younger brother is blonde.

33.25 Beth: You said his dad isn't accepting of you?

33.28 Dan.: They have a lot of family problems within themselves. His dad had a lot of problems with alcoholism. So, I've seen his dad at his worst possible times. They're real proud and they're very denying of anything they do wrong. I mean especially the men, they walk on water. That's how his dad is and his dad knows what I know about him and the things that he's done to his family, wife, and how he's behaved - that's what his big problem is with me, I think. That's why he can't accept me as much.

- How long have you been dating?

Three years.

- Do you intend to get engaged.

I don't know. This past month has been really bad because we moved in together. Money problems are really stretching us right now. I mean we have the money, the problem is who's going to spend it on what? And that's the problem. When school starts it will probably be better. He works in Indianapolis, so we never see each other and it's hard to communicate. But up 'til now, it's been fine. And he has to move to Indianapolis next year and he's asked me to go with him, to move there with him too.

34.38 Cha.: Does his mother speak Afghanistan?

34.40 Dan.: Yeah, she does. When she, they, married. When they got married, they moved to Afghanistan after they got all their degrees finished they moved to Afghanistan. And she learned Pashtoo and taught in a school there, over there. So, they've been bilingual since they were little and she spoke it at home and their servants spoke it. He's always spoken English and Pashtoo. So she learned it. She sounds real funny when she talks it because it's not natural at all, it sounds really ...

35.10 Beth: You have to roll your "r"s.  
And you've got to go (throaty sound).  
That's true.

35.23 Beth: You haven't talked ...

35.24 Kim: Neither about your background ...

35.27 Nic.: My father's Greek and my mother's American. And I don't speak any Greek. I know a few phrases, but I can't converse with anybody.

35.42 Stan: Have you lived here all your life?

35.43 Nic.: Right. And when you said earlier that it was good to be with someone from your country, so that you immediately had an identity that's ... I can identify with that. Because when I go over there I look like everybody else, and my name is like everybody else, so they just assume that I'm, you know ... and millions of people come up to me and speak to me in Greek and I have to say I'm sorry and then they get mad and then they start yelling and screaming at my dad. Why doesn't she speak Greek and what's the matter her and then what's the problem ... There's no high schools which teach Greek here and they're like so, they don't think that's a problem. It's good to have a native to be with when I'm over there, but I'm not dating anyone right now. So, I don't really have that to identify with. However, I don't know if that would be a problem on my side of the family ... with his I don't know. Although, he's always pressuring me about aren't you finding anybody yet? Am I ever going to have grand children? This, that ... Can I finish school yet? My field of study at Ball State is art. So, this is my home.

- Are you a painter?

Umh, I haven't taken any painting classes yet. I've sort of found a liking to ceramics.

- Yes, she's very good at it.

And, I really began to like that a lot. I've been getting into it a lot. Takes hours though.

Yeah, it has, I've been in here since eight o'clock this morning.

37.26 Nic.: I guess this summer my dad's gonna take me to an island in Greece which is famous for its native ceramics and I'm really excited about that.

I've been to Cyprus.

Have you? I've never been there.

37.42 Beth: My sister lives there. Very neat. It's half Greek, half Turkish. Well, we couldn't go to the Turkish part. They have it closed. It's very much like Lebanon actually.

I never knew that Cyprus was half Turkish.

Well, it's British, kind of British-Greek. So, they drive on the left-hand side, but they all speak Greek and English.

38.05 Nic.: My dad, his home is Kios which is right, I mean, you can see Turkey from the edge of Kios, but if you say that, "No, no, no, it's Greek, not Turkish. And you're like ...

- They're on the East side, very East, okay.

But he lives in Athens, but they visit there during the summer.

38.24 Beth: Which Greek islands have you been to?

38.28 Kent: I was in Athens.

38.37 Cha.: Do you intend to have children, you, you, you intend ... How will you raise them. How's that? Or have you thought of that?

38.52 Kent: No, we've thought of it some ... Umh, we both think the American public education system is rather deficient.

- Really?

Especially, compared to Europe. When we lived in Saudi Arabia, I went to school in Switzerland for a year and the education systems are just ... you can't even compare them. The Swiss and German educational students for example ... come over here

and laugh at the schools. We think it may be nice to take our kids to Europe for an education.

So, then you don't plan on living here?

It's really kind of open right now.

39.43 Dan.: It sounds like you will be apt to live everywhere especially with your family the way they live all over the place.

That's true. I, don't know, have two siblings in one country. We're four kids. So, you know.

How many languages can you speak?

39.59 Beth: English and Arabic, a little French. I took French as a third language. You have to take a third language in school that excludes the two languages you have already started with.

- English and Arabic?

Yeah and as I said, you speak totally different than how you write, so that's a language by itself. I used to ace my English and get 'C's and 'D's in my Arabic. You know, because it's an incredibly hard language to learn. But, that's also one thing we're talking about, how many languages are our kids gonna speak and what are they.

- She wants to, she would like to teach our kids French, I'm sure which is an absolutely useless language.

40.44 Kent: I would like to teach them German. Something they could use if they travel.

- Like where?

Germany. They speak German everywhere.

40.54 Dan.: Well Spanish would be the best choice, of course.

40.56 Cha.: Of course.

- All over the world they speak English.

But Spanish is rapidly succeeding right behind it.

41.03 Beth: But if they learn Arabic, they can work anywhere in the Middle East except Persia.

41.08 Dan.: That's something we talked about too. Since he speaks it and his whole family does and they're really ... about speaking English. They're proud they can speak it and his uncle speaks, French too.

They will lose that after a few generations.

And they'll expect Tim's family to speak Pharisee too. Of course, I don't know a word.

41.28 Kent: The Arabic, ... it's tough to pronounce some things. They have letters we don't have. Just to learning how to pronounce that letter is tough. And then you have to pronounce an entire word with several of them. I've found it worthwhile when we get together with a bunch of Lebanese friends, you know, I can follow the conversation somewhat rather than sitting off to the side going (I don't know expression).

42.01 Beth: We're pretty set if there's someone in the room who doesn't speak Arabic, then we all try to speak English. Sometimes, it's hard.

Until they get excited.

Yeah, when we get excited. It's like Italians. Every two speak together and you have a room out of twenty people and whoa!

The conversation's going!

That's exactly right and we talk with our hands.

42.25 Dan.: Well, Tim's mum learned Pharisee because she got sick of everybody speaking Pharisee in front of her. She started memorizing the words and then later would ask her husband what they mean. Because they would never speak English. She had to learn it. So she was so bored, she memorized it.

42.39 Beth: When I speak on the phone to my family, he picks out the words and sometimes I don't want him to learn these words. It's funny.

42.44 Cha.: Oh that's because I do the same thing. When I speak on the phone to my parents I only speak in Spanish. That took Henry for a whirlwind the first time I did that because here in Indiana, I mean the only time I spoke Spanish was at home. When I leave my house I only speak in English and I feel really uncomfortable speaking Spanish with people I don't know. I mean to me, it's an intimate language. I have to know that person and feel safe with this person because I have only spoken it with family and outside I don't. And, you know, you're American kind of thing. So, I'm like yeah, okay, whatever. But, when I go home that's all going to change. You're not going to see me as just another American, you know, girl. I was at his place and I had to call my mother. His mouth just dropped. He's like, you know, wait a second, hold on a second, what is this, what language. He started asking all these questions, blah, blah, blah. But, right now, I mean, we've decided he's really gotten gung-ho into where, you know, Cuban culture. "We want to live there and want to speak the language and do you think they're going to have a problem with my skin?". I'm like, "No matter what you do they're going to call you gringo. You can speak the language, but they'll always call gringo." He can speak the language to a 'T', but they'll always be like snickering and jokingly kind of thing. He's like, he wants to, he's hoping that you know Communism in Cuba will fall real quick so he can go live there. He wants to live there. He loves the food. He cooks the food. He loves to cook. And he bought this book, you know, with Cuban style food.

- Marry him!!

When I went to visit his family once for Fourth of July or something, he cooked up this whole big shebang. He came over to my house, my mother cooked up this thing for him, he went into the kitchen with my mother. What's that, what's that, how'd do you do that? My mother loved that. Then, he went home. He made it for his family and when I came over I was like okay this is how we're going to do it. Fine. So, he's occasionally, you know, he went home and when his parents come down, he you know occasionally kept throwing these Spanish words because he can't make a whole sentence yet. But these Spanish words come up all over the place. And they're like, "Oh son, your Spanish is improving. We're in the grocery store and he's like umh, he'll call me in Spanish, he calls my name out in Spanish now, it no longer Charity as you know, ... Charitas!! (Like it sounds) 'Comme de



say, you know', how do you say this. 'Kay ad acts ...'

45.41 Beth: See, I wish he'd do this. I wish you would do that. Ask me how to say things in Arabic, so you could learn more.

- Oh well.

45.53 Dan.: I make Tim ... I point out things around the room and he'll name them, but I always forget. I know that apple's \_\_\_\_.

46.03 Beth: When I go back, I'm gonna get some like kids' books - Start from scratch. Like little children.

- "See the dog."

Gotta start somewhere.

46.19 Cha.: Well, it's sort of hard though. I mean teaching another person. I mean you can teach them this is the building, this is the grass, that's a microwave kind of thing, but then to put it all together, it's like well, you just sort of know.

46.31 Nic.: And especially with Arabic or even like Greek. Those letters are nothing. And everything's in phrases, Americans speak ... one word at a time. Most foreign languages are phrases.

- And there's a lot of gestures (click of the tongue) ... for no.

And the accent.

47.02 Dan.: Well, in Spanish there's what fifteen tenses a verb?

47.05 Cha. But, I mean it's a pretty simple language. If you just learn the basics. You're okay. You'll go with the flow kind of thing and you can, it's easy because I think it, you can read it. What you say, you know what you pronounce or what you see on paper is what you pronounce. It's not like in English where you have to mix your 'a' with your 'e' to get to one sound and your 'e' with your 'o' to get another and you don't have words that have no pronunciation, you don't pronounce them. I mean what you have on paper, that's what you go with. So, to learn how to read it,

no problem at all. You may not understand what you're saying, but you can read it. Right now, we have bought these crayons and these markers. I just love Crayola crayons - I think they're great. I get paper and I write out in English and I post it on whatever it is. The refrigerator has its little label on it. The couch has its little label, television. So, that helps out a lot.

48.02 Beth: I think we're trying to teach them a new language at the wrong age. I think three years old is a perfect, perfect language.

- They're not questioning anything; they're just learning.

They're brains are like sponges at that age, they just want to ... My nephew when he was three years old he spoke fluent Arabic and English. And that's the time when to teach them.

- So, it'll be great for your kids.

48.35 Kent: We'll teach them English, Arabic, and German.

- Why German?

48.44 Beth: He speaks German.

- Je n'ai pas français.

Okay you speak German.

- Almost fluent.

48.49 Cha.: Have you been to Germany?

48.51 Kent: Uh, yeah. I started learning it when I lived in Switzerland. unfortunately, I lived in the only Italian speaking province in Switzerland. So, I had to learn a little bit of Italian on top of that.

49.08 Cha.: Henry's father speaks German. His parents are from Germany. His grandparents are from Germany; his father speaks German to a 'T' and they go back to Germany and everything, but Henry doesn't. I mean at first he was like Germany, Germany, but now he's like oh, "Cuba, Cuba, Cuba." We've talked about our kids whatever. Definitely they'll speak Spanish, definitely speak English, we don't know

about German and I can't speak German.

49.48 Beth: I think it's really hard to me too if I have my children in future. It's going to be very hard for me to concentrate and think in Arabic again. So I can speak with children because it's so much easier just to speak English and get it over with. But you have to think Arabic. So, it's gonna take you some time, so by that time since I'm an A-type person, you know what I'm saying, I'll just say forget it! So, that's one thing that's going to be very hard. And I might slip, because my friend, she got married to an American, she has a daughter and she barely speaks Arabic with her and I know she was intending that this kid is going to speak Arabic, but now she slips away.

50.38 Kim: You have the best intentions a lot of the time and it sort of falls by the way side.

50.44 Beth: So, this is gonna be like a discipline kind of thing - so make the dedication.

END

## Log of Interview with Kim and Ed

### Re. Interracial Relationships

10.48 Kim: I don't know if I really have a philosophy but a feeling about it that maybe the people who are in them you have to have a special kind of strength or ability to withstand some things that you are going to go through that society and the people around you may throw at you. So, I think that maybe you have to be strong about what you feel you're doing and you have to feel that it's right if you're going to be successful in it.

11.28 Ed: My philosophy is that as far as interracial/intercultural race relationships go that really, ideally it shouldn't matter. No matter who you are or what race you are, no matter what culture you're from you should be able to date without scrutiny from anyone. If that's the type of relationship or situation you want to be in (and really I don't think it should be a matter of ... it should be a matter of you knew it should be a matter of so and so dating so and so really not seeing the color and race become involved and become an issue. But oftentimes that's not realistic. So, like she said it would take a certain strength, I would agree, to be involved.

12.27 Ed: I think the people who are researching it are confident that people want to hear it. If no one's really asking, "Well what are the conflicts or tensions between race relationships or cultural relationships", then I don't know maybe you're kind of stuck in the mud. But if people really want to know as far as education wise, I think it's important.

12.58 Kim: I think for the most part we have a positive reaction from our friends, I mean I haven't really had a negative reaction from my friends. If my friends don't agree with it I don't know about it. I mean they act like they do. So, we haven't ... I've had a positive.

13.15 Ed: I haven't had any. I've had a lot of positive reinforcement also, I

haven't had any negative at all ... at least not to my knowledge.

13.35 Kim: I think my friends are more accepting of it as another relationship and they just treat us like they would any other couple. So, for the most part I think, so for my friends.

13.50 Ed: Yeah, mine are the same way. I think they look at it as just another, another relationship. I think it's almost impossible to understand unless you're really involved in any way: it's almost impossible I think.

### **Re. Parents' Reactions**

14.14 Kim: Umh ... It's not really that I'm jealous, I just get angry. I don't really understand why they can be that way. But also I've decided to try to be more accepting of it that they feel their way and I feel my way. They're not going to change and neither am I. We just sort of need to accept each other as it is and just be lucky that Ed and I do have one side of the family we can go to when we need to.

14.41 - 18.42 GAP

18.42 Kim: I guess I imagined what I wanted and to be honest I never thought I would be with someone of another race because of the people I interacted with and the environment I was in. We never went ... I never really went to school with people like ... a lot of black people until I was in high school and junior high. So, I guess I pictured in my mind marrying someone white just because I didn't really know anything else, not that it really mattered. I just, you know, when you think about it you just sort of think it's going to be someone that's the same skin color whatever, but the qualities in general are in Ed. So, for the most part, I've gotten what I wanted, so far.

19.29 Ed: I never really, never thought about it very much to be honest with you. I never ... you know on t.v. you always see the perfect relationships things like that and you would hope I suppose you don't really think when you're younger the fact that people can't always stay together or whatever. And when you meet someone

and it's like this magical thing and everything's gonna be dandy. But as you date you realize it takes more sacrifice and commitment and stuff like that to make it work out.

### **Re. Schools**

20.11 Ed: Mine was about 60:40 probably, maybe 70:30.

20.24 Ed: Yeah, for the most part, I did. Mainly because a lot of the activities I was involved with in school were like student council, things like that and in the school I came from, that, predominantly they were organizations minorities didn't really get involved with very much. And I was like officers in the organizations, things like that, and really I was always surrounded by white people all the time.

### **Re. Hometown friends then compared to how they are now.**

20.59 Kim: The people I grew up with, I think, I'm just more down to earth and stuff because I came from an environment where the people are pretty much upper middle class or whatever and they seem to be caught up in these materialistic things and all those kinds of things and granted, I mean, I want nice things and all those kinds of things, but it's not the end all, be all. They're so worried about what other people think and doing the right thing in their minds - doing the right thing and socially accepted thing. I think I'm different in that way 'cause I just sort of do what I feel is right in my heart and sometimes they do what's right because they do what's right because it's what the group is going to do. So, even if they would want to do something different, they wouldn't because they wouldn't want to not be a part of something.

21.45 Ed: I am about the same as ... well ... as the group I hang around with ... we're pretty much ... socially the same, but we've had different interests obviously. Most of my friends probably didn't pursue college educations and are involved in other things now. But for the most part, we're probably pretty much the same, philosophically, probably.

22.30 Ed: I think the people that would've been okay or that we're okay in high

school will be okay at the reunion and the people that were phony in high school and pretend like its okay in high school, but they'd probably be pretty consistent just from their backgrounds, it's the right thing to be you know open about things or accepting of things whether they agree or disagree.

23.12 Ed: For the most part, I think there are some people who are capable of changing and you know maybe like the same thing they learn to see things in a different way. For the most, people sort of stay the same way they are. Maybe not from this college time to ten years because I think people right now our age tend to be more liberal and I think once you get into the real world and you see a lot of things in the real world you may become more conservative. But I still think for the most part ... the things you'll believe now you'll probably believe down the road, I think.

### **Re. Parent's knowledge of marriage plans**

23.51 Kim: Mine do.

23.53 Ed: Mine ... I've never really talked about it. Umh ... but if I were to go home and talk about it, say tomorrow, and say well Kim and I are going to stay together or it looks like we're going to stay together or it looks like we're going to stay together. You know, it wouldn't be a problem. Umh ... our family is one that it's pretty much as long as you're doing the things that you're really responsible or they perceive to be responsible for doing really, you're not in trouble with the law or I'm not beating her, things like that, then they're pretty supportive of most things really. So, it wouldn't. And if I were to go in tomorrow I think it wouldn't really surprise them to say we're going to stay together actually.

### **Re. Same Problems in Interracial Couples**

23.40 Kim: I don't think all ... I mean, I know people who have been in interracial relationships where it's been fine. I've known other people where it's just been a horrible experience like reception wise. I think it really sort of varies from couple to couple how you deal with it, personally, you know, and how. I think there are people who maybe change to be more like the other person or accept the other race

as maybe becoming part of their own instead of accepting the differences. That can cause problems, perception wise from other people you know and I think that's when if you start to lose yourself even in a you know, where you're both white or both black or whatever when you start to lose yourself that becomes a problem in general anyway. So, I think it really just depends on the people and how they deal with one another and the situation really.

### **Re. Blame for demise of relationship**

25.44 Ed: To me if it falls apart, we have to blame ourselves. Even if other outside factors influence how it works out, it was still us who chose to come together and we knew that we'd have a hard road to face anyway. So, we really can't blame anyone else.

25.59 Kim: I agree with that.

### **Re. Parental pressure**

26.11 Kim: Yeah, I wouldn't blame them because I ... the ultimate decision ... like Ed said I make the ultimate decision in the choice to do either what they want me to do and to fall into their trap, I mean fall into their model of what they want me to be; but, so, I'm truly the only one who's ... I mean responsible for myself so I can only blame myself for doing that. But my parents have already put lots of pressure on me and I've sort of made the decision and it's something I'm going to stick with unless something really awful would happen between Ed and myself.

### **Re. Interracial Dating Average Experience of College Life**

27.00 Ed: I wouldn't say it's an average experience in college life. College isn't an average experience in life either because I think that college is a pretty sheltered environment for the most part. I, I think we have a fortunate experience. And I can't say how it's going to end up and I don't like to predict really. I say, it's a special experience, even if it didn't work out. Still I would not look back on it as a negative experience. Unless, of course, in the next couple months, whatever, we just went drastically down hill ... we just ... and it turned really negative. So far, I wouldn't look back and say its been you know, a bad time.



27.53 Kim: I guess when I think ideally I would want it to be more positive, I think, but realistically it's probably more negative. I think people are trying to become more positive, but it's hard to. Our society has all these demands and all these so-called rules or so-called restrictions and limitations of what is right and what's wrong; instead of letting each person choosing their own right and wrong. I think, you know, it makes it really hard to be positive, you know. You personally can be positive, but I think in general things are pretty negative right now. Our country's not at its height now.

28.37 Ed: I would agree. I would think that the way the media are portraying things that they do, I think the people are easily side tracked or get distorted pictures of the way life really is and have expectations of how they would like life to be and really it's just not realistic at the time and I think they really become negative, they really become unfocused and they blame it on on other people. I think most people really aren't willing to blame their lives on themselves - they always want to find a scapegoat most oftentimes.

### **Re. Prejudice**

29.19 Ed: I think some things are attributed to racism which shouldn't be. It seems like a lot of things always end up resorting back to racism when really that's maybe not necessarily always the case. Maybe a case of inequality, not inequality, but fairness as opposed to unfair. Not a matter of race. A matter of justice, not a matter of race. And it always ends up ... seems to resort back to race and because really not enough attention I think's been put on it to where barriers have been broken; you know, break down the walls. I think there's not enough done to it. So, I guess to answer the question I would say really not enough attention has been put on it, I think that really people are to the point where they're like in the sixties and seventies when a lot of attention was focussed on it. So, now the problem is not really a problem's not really a problem anymore and if there is a problem, then the races, then the minority races are making the problems themselves and that they need to work on it themselves, but it's not a worldwide or a thing that it doesn't affect me then it's not a problem - that type of thing where I think really it's a problem and it's just not really focussed on

30.28 Ed: Well, a lot of legislation, I think, is passed, but then it's not really acted on or not enforced really. It's a lot of "yes" people saying we're going to do this and we're going to that, when really nothing is being done. I mean, it's going to take something radical - some extreme changes to change things. A lot of just we're going to do this for you and we're going to do that for you. I mean a good example of that big L.A. thing they said, they're going to improve relationships. But once the fire went out, then the talk died. We haven't heard anything else about it except for the week they were burning and looting. So, I think more attention should be focussed on it personally. But it's gate be kind of ... gate be careful, I think.

31.29 Ed: Re: If book about life ... - reactions? A book or movie about our lives ...

31.31 Kim: Well, I think, I guess, just judging from people's reactions to us right now, I mean the people we're friends with I mean they see our relationship as something very positive, even I think, they would, they just think the two of us together is a positive thing. I think maybe people's reaction in general, would be probably ... I don't know what it would 'cause that's really hard to say. I think there are some people who would feel bad about the situation with my parents and they would feel good about our relationship in general, but then there's always gonna be people who would be like, "Well, they shouldn't be together anyway" ... so, they're going to have a negative reaction to it. Of course, I would love for everyone to have a positive feeling about something like that, but it's not really realistic.

32.20 Ed: I think that I would want people to ... (I'd make it a movie, of course. I'm really, not into big books and stuff. I say movie and then they can go back and read the book if they choose to.) But where, you know they can leave the theater and think that was a really nice romance story, but at the same time, you know the couple came together and they beat all the odds and the ... uh ... they were successful and not always necessarily focus on the fact it was an interracial relationship, but the fact that they cared about each other and they made it a commitment to stay together and work thins out. You know, there's a strength involved, not so much beating the big race barrier thing, but just that they were strong and the fact that all relationships

are hard to be successful in and that they were able to do it and they leave happy and say I hope our kids grow up to be the same way and all that kind of thing.

### **Re. Interracial Children**

33.38 Ed: I think we can both handle it. I think that personally I think a lot of people put emphasis on having interracial kids and how they will look interracial and they'll have all these problems to deal with. Personally, I have a brother who is really fair complexioned and I'm pretty sure his father is not white. And personally, I don't really see why it's such a big issue, personally. I come from a minority fairly, obviously I don't come from a white family and I don't really see why it's such a big issue. I don't really remember growing up as a kid, kids that I knew were mixed giving them a hard time about being mixed. I think if they got along on the playground with everyone else, then it wasn't an issue, it wasn't a big deal. Now if they didn't get along on the playground it was because they're idiots, not because they were mixed kids. I think people really make it an issue when really they haven't looked at why it would be an issue in the first place to support what they .. it is they think will be the issues anyway. I mean it's a matter of how they're raised as far as their parents and things go. I think if the parents are able to handle and raise their kids in a way it's not a big deal, then I don't think it'll be an issue, personally. You know, I really don't.

34.55 Kim: I think the only thing that I really worry about or I want to make a strong effort to do, is to make sure I expose or I let my children have the opportunity to experience both cultures so that they can experience those things and make those decisions on their own about where they feel they want to fit in. And I think that if you raise your children hopefully to have high self-esteem and to feel good about themselves and that you know you can't worry what others think and you have to find your own niche in life, whether it's in the white culture or black culture or a mixed part of it where it's intermingling of the races which would be ideal in that they ... This is a decision that you know that their father and I made and we didn't want to necessarily put them in this position, but as a member of our society they can make those decisions on their own and hopefully make some changes of their own and I think that's really an important thing to instill in them, in general, in any

kids really.

END

## B-roll of Kim and Ed

<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Item</b>
2.03	WS Kim setting the table
2.48	WS Kim cooking
3.45	MS Greasing pan
5.00	Ed & Kim cooking together
(8.49	Start interview                      36.06 End interview)
42.54	Ed stirring
44.52	Draining macaroni
45.26	Together mixing
46.04	Both their legs
46.32	Both their backs
47.36	Ed mixing
47.59	XCU Ed's face
48.30	CU Ed
49.14	CU Kim
50.24	MCU Ed
50.32	"Grace" Kim & Ed
51.07	Both eating
51.14	CU Ed
51.36	MCU Kim eating

## Script

**V.O.:** The face of America is changing its hue. The United States Census Bureau predicts that by the year 2030 one-third of America will be composed of Blacks, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans. And as a result mixed race couples are increasing. In 1990, there were 211, 000 black-white marriages in the United States. Perhaps it is hard to believe that every year, four out of every one thousand married couples are racially mixed - it may even be higher since the Census Bureau counts only blacks and whites because of the difficulty in classifying Hispanics and Hawaii's Samoan population, especially.

On a mid-sized campus like Ball State University in Indiana, one sees that a few interracial and cross-cultural couples exist openly in this town that is considered typically American. They all have their own distinct experiences, but it is easy to see that some similarities exist. Nearly everyone met at university. For many people it is the first time they meet others who vary in their influences whether culturally, economically, or socially.

Like the first meeting of his family or her family the experience can be a little nerve wracking, especially when the hope for unbridled acceptance is at the forefront.

**Stan:** Well, when we were getting to know each other pretty well, that was kind of one of the major questions that I had to sort through. What, how will my family respond to our relationship because my family is really close,. fairly, fairly traditional in a lot of ways. Some, at least one of my brothers had gotten to know her before we started dating and I was pleasantly surprised that they were for the most part really accepting of her and even were from the beginning. I have one sister who lives all the way out on the west coast and umh ... she and her husband really weren't too sure and of course they really hadn't met Jennifer, so they didn't really get to know her. But I think the rest of the family ... She worked herself into their hearts. She has a way of doing that.

**Kim:** What about your parents?

**Jen.:** Umh, it was a, it was a , they were really accepting when he went there. Even before they met him, they talked to him on the phone.

**Beth:** In Trinidad? Have you been there?

**Stan:** Yeah, we went there the summer after we were married. So, it was a really good time with her family. Probably, the most, I don't know, maybe the most .... One of the most uncomfortable was when we went to the market. I really stood out there. And of course, they knew, I was white and American and so they thought I had a lot of money.

**Jen:** He almost stepped on this woman's peppers and she said, "He's a white man, so he can afford to pay for all of them. He's got lots of money." Well you'd find the lower class the people, you'll reach them there. But in our neighborhood, they were really nice to him.

**Stan:** I found out too the cross-cultural adjustment ... I think is a lot ... was a lot easier for me in going to Trinidad because I'm married to her. She helped me out a lot in understanding things. Having a place or a group of people to fit in right away, her family helped out. I think how that experience was a lot different from when I visited Honduras just as a single student and there you knew it was just a whole lot more awkward fitting in socially. But of course, we haven't been in Trinidad together for a long period of time, but it seemed while we were there it seemed pretty natural because I was already part of the family.

**V.O.:** Whether a couple is interracial or cross-culturally mixed or even both, discomfort can exist even at the smallest level.

**Kent:** I got to meet her parents the same day I asked her to marry me. And, uh, that was interesting. The same day I met them I'm like saying, "Can I marry your daughter?" And uh, she said, they're really traditional, type people, you know,

really old-fashioned. So, I thought I'd ask for her hand in marriage ... very traditional kind of thing. And I asked, I don't remember exactly what I said, but I asked for his permission to marry his daughter - something like that. And his response totally blew me away: "Well, she's old enough ... ask her."

**V.O.:** Charity, who is Cuban-American was recently engaged to Henry who is German-American.

**Cha.:** They've met him and they just think he's the most wonderful thing in the world, thing in the world. He comes home. My mother is a home maker or a housewife. She just loves people and company. All different religions, backgrounds, races. So, when he came over she's like big banquet style. I like come over, "There's some hamburgers in the fridge, fix yourself whatever you want." And he comes over and she's like, "You'll learn about our culture and everything. She really ... and she talks to him in Spanish I mean like ... My first language is Spanish. And she'll talk to him in Spanish.

**V.O.:** For Kim and Ed, the road to cementing their relationship has been a little harder. They're both American, but of different racial backgrounds. Interestingly, from a biological point of view, race doesn't even exist according to an associate professor in anthropology and biology at Northwestern University who says, "Race is a sociological term. It's definition is relative." A USA Today poll in 1989 said, "Sixty per cent would disapprove if their sister dated a black man."

**Kim:** Yeah, it was hard. It is hard. It's hard to deal with because I'm really, I am close to my family. It's not like we're not close and when I go home and spend time with them ... I want Ed to experience those things too and he can't. It gets hard to deal with that, but we're trying to deal with it better and not like because I caught myself like trying ... to pull back from my family instead of just sort of dealing with it and taking it for what it was right now and so I'm like trying to like learn how sort of just be more laid back and more relaxed about it and not so uptight about because that just makes more uptight.



**Stan:** Do your parents ever try to talk to you about it then or is it kind of a ...

**Kim:** My dad does not talk about it at all. Never, I mean, so , but my mom actually just past this week, we had a long talk about it. She's very honest and we're very honest with each other about it. As she talks to me about it. We've gotten to the point where it doesn't hurt my feeling anymore; its just being honest you know, I mean they know that I love him and I want to be with him and everything, but I know they don't want me to be with him. I think we've just agreed to disagree and you know we keep saying I hope you're going to do the right thing. Well, I keep ... my parents are going lot do the right thing and neither of us probably going to get what we want. it's hard, but Ed's very understanding and makes us stronger people, I think at least tries to. And it's nice that his family is very accepting of it because it's at least nice to have one side of the family you can go and rely on.

**Cha.:** Did you have any ... ? Umh, well, like what attracted you to him?

**Kim:** His personality, totally, I mean ... he just has the best personality of any person. I wasn't attracted to him physically at all when we first met ... I was like ... uh ... whatever, he just made me laugh ... and he just, he's just ...

**Dan.:** I remember that because when you first started dating you were like no! ...

**Kim:** I know I was like ... we just ... I mean ... his personality ... He's a very wise person like I don't know. He just has an answer for every problem. It seems like a solution you know. He's just very understanding and very laid back, very, very, very laid back.

**V.O.:** Charity's family couldn't say anything about her engagement to her boyfriend because her older brothers and her sister, too, have married outside their race and/or culture.

**Cha.:** Yeah! They found out two weeks ago. They came down, they asked, "Well, what are your plans." And he just came out at the table and said, "Well, mom, you

know, I think we are going to get engaged. Well we are going to get engaged and get married.” That was a surprise to me. I didn’t know he was going to tell them. We had talked about it, but what he talks about with them are two different things. So, I was like, you know. really, oh you didn’t prepare me for this. Wait a second. And so his mom was sort of like I sort of expected that. Okay, what else?? Oh, they’re pretty laid back with this whole situation. So, they’ve been pretty okay about the whole thing ... No big deal.

**V.O.** When one half of a couple perceives the other as American, it’s difficult to understand and accept the divergent qualities which helped to make them unique and probably molded them into the person with whom the other fell in love. The way Charity spoke Spanish to her family surprised her fiancé, Henry, the first time it happened.

For Daniella, the whole language and other cultural barriers which exist between she and her Afghani-American boyfriend’s family is disconcerting.

**Dan.:** The family, in fact, I visited just two weeks ago in Washington, D.C.. They’re very traditional, they speak no English unless I ask them to translate and it’s really hard. And Tim is bilingual and he has been since he was born. Like you he went to two schools. He translated for me a little bit and it is really hard to get along with that. They treat women differently. Like the Afghan girls. They can’t meet their fiancé’s parents until they’re officially engaged and then they’re allowed to meet the other family. Umh, they’re really strange, they’re not really arranged marriages, they have to be approved first.

**V.O.** It seemed to me, the non-Americans and the first generation Americans were most concerned about the survival of their language, especially when they choose to have children eventually.

**Beth:** I think it’s really hard to me too if I have my children in future. It’s going to be very hard for me to concentrate and think in Arabic again. So I can speak with children because it’s so much easier just to speak English and get it over with. But

you have to think Arabic. So, it's gonna take you some time, so by that time since I'm an A-type person, you know what I'm saying, I'll just say forget it! So, that's one thing that's going to be very hard. And I might slip, because my friend, she got married to an American, she has a daughter and she barely speaks Arabic with her and I know she was intending that this kid is going to speak Arabic, but now she slips away.

**Kim:** You have the best intentions a lot of the time and it sort of falls by the way side.

**V.O.:** Talking about and planning for the future is always difficult. both Kim and Ed agree it takes a special kind of strength whomever is concerned.

**Ed:** My philosophy is that as far as interracial/intercultural race relationships go that really, ideally it shouldn't matter. No matter who you are or what race you are, no matter what culture you're from you should be able to date without scrutiny from anyone. If that's the type of relationship or situation you want to be in (and really I don't think it should be a matter of ... it should be a matter of you knew it should be a matter of so and so dating so and so really not seeing the color and race become involved and become an issue. But oftentimes that's not realistic. So, like she said it would take a certain strength, I would agree, to be involved.

**Kim:** I guess I imagined what I wanted and to be honest I never thought I would be with someone of another race because of the people I interacted with and the environment I was in. We never went ... I never really went to school with people like ... a lot of black people until I was in high school and junior high. So, I guess I pictured in my mind marrying someone white just because I didn't really know anything else, not that it really mattered. I just, you know, when you think about it you just sort of think it's going to be someone that's the same skin color whatever, but the qualities in general are in Ed. So, for the most part, I've gotten what I wanted, so far.

**V.O.:** Ed, on the other hand, never really thought about the race of the person he

would most likely date or marry. Acceptance from both sets of prospective in-laws happens. Not everyone's experience is the same.

**Kim:** think it really sort of varies from couple to couple how you deal with it, personally, you know, and how. I think there are people who maybe change to be more like the other person or accept the other race as maybe becoming part of their own instead of accepting the differences. That can cause problems, perception wise from other people you know and I think that's when if you start to lose yourself even in a you know, where you're both white or both black or whatever when you start to lose yourself that becomes a problem in general anyway. So, I think it really just depends on the people and how they deal with one another and the situation really.

**V.O.:** Both Kim and Ed feel their relationship is not dissimilar from any other college dating relationship where one most work to smooth out differences.

**Kim:** Well, I think, I guess, just judging from people's reactions to us right now, I mean the people we're friends with I mean they see our relationship as something very positive, even I think, they would, they just think the two of us together is a positive thing. I think maybe people's reaction in general, would be probably ... I don't know what it would 'cause that's really hard to say. I think there are some people who would feel bad about the situation with my parents and they would feel good about our relationship in general, but then there's always gonna be people who would be like, "Well, they shouldn't be together anyway" ... so, they're going to have a negative reaction to it. Of course, I would love for everyone to have a positive feeling about something like that, but it's not really realistic.

**V.O.:** Neither Kim nor Ed or any of the other couples hold themselves up as a torch of positive aspects of mixed blessings. They work on themselves like any other couple knowing they are the ones responsible for the progress of their relationship.

**Ed:** To me if it falls apart, we have to blame ourselves. Even if other outside factors influence how it works out, it was still us who chose to come together and

we knew that we'd have a hard road to face anyway. So, we really can't blame anyone else.

**V.O.:** Perhaps a focus like this shouldn't even be conceived, but sadly, the United states is still a nation polarized by color. Hope for better relations apparently rests with the young.

**END 17:00**

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